

If you live in areas where black bears are seen, or are causing damage to your property, use the following management strategies around your property to prevent conflicts:

- Remember- Bears are typically present because of an attractant.
- Bears have an excellent sense of smell and can smell attractants from several miles away.
- The first step would be to secure your garbage either in a garage or locked shed to prevent the bear from having access to it. If you don't have a garage or shed, try using a ratchet strap to secure your garbage can. Remove strap when you set can out for pick up. See example below. A Bungee cord will not deter a bear!
- We recommend contacting your waste disposal company and seeing if they offer bear resistant garbage cans. Often Garbage services are contracted by City or County agencies. Speaking to your City council or County Commissioners about requiring "Certified Bear Resistant" containers is needed to have the contractor provide to citizens.
- Place your garbage out on the morning of pickup day.
- You will also need to take down bird/suet feeders permanently as bears are attracted to these as well.
- If you have a bear getting into or damaging your chicken coops or bee hives, we recommend placing a hotwire around them or playing talk radio near the coop through speakers to try and prevent the bear from coming around.
- Call 360-902-2936 option 1 with any reports of a bear sighting.
- Please read the following link regarding relocating black bears: [Why can't more black bears be relocated following conflicts?](#)
- Living with Bears: [Black bear | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)



Example of how to use a ratchet strap.

We also strongly recommend talking with your neighbors to make sure they are following the same guidelines. If you do your part to clean up but your neighbor doesn't, the bear will continue to come to your properties and cause damage while looking for food. It is extremely important that **EVERYONE** is on the same page, it only takes one neighbor to cause a problem for everyone else.

If after you've tried the above methods and the bear continues to return, please contact WILDCOMM at 360-902-2936 Opt. 1 to file a report. Remember- bears rely heavily on smells and their hearing to get around and to locate food. Making noise can work very well in deterring certain bears, so something as simple as clapping your hands, setting off your car alarm, banging pots or pans, or using a noise maker can be effective in deterring them.

It is very important to know that you could be cited for feeding dangerous wildlife either intentionally or unintentionally:

RCW 77.15.790

[RCW 77.15.790: Negligently feeding, attempting to feed, or attracting large wild carnivores to land or a building—Infraction. \(wa.gov\)](#)

RCW 77.15.792

[RCW 77.15.792: Intentionally feeding or attempting to feed large wild carnivores or intentionally attracting large wild carnivores to land or a building—Penalty. \(wa.gov\)](#)

For more information, please contact Fish and Wildlife at [Home | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)